



Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

A Volunteer Organization of the UW-Cooperative Extension Service



Volume 20, Number 1

February-March 2014

Kathie's Notes

There may be a foot of snow on The Garden Door, but the plans and activities of TGD Committee are on steroids! Tim has set a few goals! 1) The contract with Yard Works Landscaping for the pavers is signed, sealed and delivered. Work could start in April depending on the weather. We will be "under construction" for approximately three weeks. Several areas will need to be "rearranged" before the work begins. The rock garden path is too narrow for a wheelchair. We'll need a crew to help Barb Ottum! 2) By June 15th we would like the plants in all areas labeled. I will post a procedure as soon as we can talk with Sandi Ott. I'm sure she'll need more plant markers and some HELP! This will be done as a picnic and we'll need all hands on deck. 3) The map Vicki created a few years ago needs to be updated. We're trying to figure out how to give each area chairman an outline of **their** area. Mapping each garden will take some expertise! If this lies within your skills set, please call Tim or Kathie! Some of the original tree markers have vanished. At the picnic we'll need all *Latin* experts to ID plants, bushes and trees. The internet will be available through the classroom's wi-fi connection. Any and all perennial identification books will be invaluable. Plants that have morphed over the years? We may have to leave the species blank. Dates will be set for The Garden Door clean-up and the ID picnic when the snow melts.

The Goals Committee is looking to the future. This will include financial and membership ideas. Bill Freyman is the chair. Mike Van Ess is leading a committee that will update the by-laws and tie the internet and e-mail into our day-to-day operations. Martha Burris, Christine Gritzmacher and I are working as a Special Events Committee to set up a "how to" format to ease the chairmen's loads for the Plant Sale, Open House and the Taste. Barb and Doug created an excellent "map" of the Taste activities. We're using that as a model. Job descriptions are also on our agenda.

We have been blessed with enthusiastic new members. They have stepped up to Board members, chairmen, co-chairmen and wonderful volunteers! It's difficult to volunteer if you don't know what you're signing up for! I have updated the Volunteer Opportunities (Vol Opps) which are on the website. Check it out; make sure I didn't forget anyone! The Vol Opps page "feeds" the WANT ADS in the newsletter and on the website. This is a work in progress! I have also updated The Garden Door chart. If you are a committee chair, check the Vol Opps and TGD chart. If I did not list all of your committee members, please send any amendments to me a.s.a.p.

Website updates include thank-you notes from the Sevastopol students (under Youth Tab) and a thank-you note from Beth at the library (to Kanani King, Pat Storms, Deborah Javurek, Lee Somerville and me), posted under the Outreach Tab.

I have created an e-mail account for sending out our group messages. My intent is for committee chair people to send their own news flashes. The contacts have files to identify the groups, e.g., TGD, "Class of 2014", board, etc. Hopefully this idea will lessen the load.

Memorial pictures of Shelley Ryan are posted on the dcmga.org home page. The 20th Season of The Wisconsin Gardener, Shelley's last programs, will air on channel 38, WPT, on Thursday, April 16. Several DCMGA members have been interviewed as Shelley toured their gardens. We will always remember Shelley's enthusiasm, friendship and laughter.

Jim McFarlin has secured a wi-fi projector that could be used by members in the classroom for webinars. Jim is the Level Two expert so give him a call if you have any questions. A grant application for the events tents has been submitted, thanks to Barb and Doug Henderson and Jim McFarlin. In the past few weeks I distributed the 2014 roster. It includes a new column for your area of "expertise." This helps the students identify WHO to call for advice or assistance. I entered whatever you submitted. In a few days I will have a roster available on the website. It will be in a password protected page. Several additions and corrections arrived AFTER the new roster was printed. Send any amendments by Feb 10th. We will have PDFs on that page for members only.

If you want the winter to pass faster, join a committee. Perhaps the first and biggest benefit people get from volunteering and service is the satisfaction of making a difference in their community. The intangible benefits alone, such as pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment, are worthwhile reasons to have a "hand" in helping DCMGA grow.

Kathie

Door County Master Gardener Association Board of Directors and Officers:

President Kathie Vavra
Vice President..... Mike Van Ess
TreasurerMartha Burris
SecretaryBonnie Rankin
Board Members: Bill Freyman, Jim McFarlin, Wendy Woldt, Tim Kazmierczak, Jim Baxter, Chris Gritzmacher
State Board Representative Rod Bohn
Advisor.....Dean Volenberg

MISSION STATEMENT: The Door County Master Gardeners Association, Inc., in partnership with UW-Extension, shall strive to make a positive impact on horticulture in our community through education, community outreach, and stewardship of our environment.

Door County Master Gardeners "taking care of business!"



DCMGA Board Meeting – January 15, 2014
by Bonnie Rankin

Board Members Present: Jim McFarlin, Mike VanEss, Bill Freyman, Tim Kazmierczak, Kathie Vavra, Jim Baxter, Chris Gritzmacher, Martha Burris, and Bonnie Rankin.

Also Present: Phil Block

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Secretary's Report - Motion was made and seconded to approve the November 20, 2013 minutes. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – The Garden Door Budget and October 31st report and revised December 31st report were distributed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the reports. Motion approved. Dues have been paid to the State. We have 108 current members.

Garden Door – A motion was made to ratify Tim Kazmierczak for TGD Chairman. Motion was seconded and approved.

Correspondence – Thank you cards from students involved in the Youth Program were shared.

Old Business

TGD Entrance Counter – The counter is in and will be installed as soon as weather allows.

Paver Contract – An updated contract was distributed. Discussion was held on held on graveled edges and inclusion of the drawing as part of the contract. The changes proposed to the contract will be incorporated and signatures will be obtained to go forth with the work.

Goals Committee Report – Bill Freyman and the committee will be meeting in near future.

By-Law and Officer Information Updates - Mike VanEss will begin preliminary work and meet with the committee to begin updates.

Special Events Committee – Barb and Doug prepared an activity list for The Taste which will be used for the next event. It outlines each specific job that needs to be done and includes a "how to" list to make the event successful. It was suggested we come up with something similar for each activity, such as for the Plant Sale and Open House.

PARS Contract – Committee (Kathie Vavra, Jim McFarlin, Chriss Daubner, and Kerry Vavra) will meet with Matt.

Classroom Tables – The tables are in use with the exception of a couple which needed replacement due to damage.

Gift Certificate – Pamela Parks, a free lance reporter has done a lot of promotion for MG. Jim McFarlin suggested giving her a gift certificate for the plant sale. Martha Burris will design a gift certificate which can be used. This will be discussed again at the March meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes *(continued)*

New Business

Outreach – We received our first form from Northern Door YMCA. They would like a 1 hour presentation on what will grow in Door County and a slide show of TGD. Kathie will put this out to the membership for someone to volunteer.

Signage - Phil Block and Kathie Vavra met with FLS Banners regarding logo additions to Open House Signage and proposals on banners for plant sale. Tim Kazmierczak suggested putting signage on the highway indicating there is a Garden Event in 200 feet. Entrance and exit signs will be used for all events. A discussion was held regarding the availability of the Cherry Hill signs that are currently on both sides of the station. Research will be done to find out if they are available.

Rack Cards - Phil Block also presented plans for the new Garden Door Card.

Donation Jars –A discussion was held regarding placing donation jars out at Crossroads during Tuesday night education meetings; it was a unanimous consensus not to put donation jars out.

Projector – A motion was made and seconded to purchase a wireless projector and HDMI cable for the classroom; expense not to exceed \$700. The projector will be made available for Research Station use. Motion carried. Jim McFarlin will make the purchase.

Tents - TGD Committee recommended we purchase pop-up tents for special events. Jim McFarlin will chair a committee in applying for a Raibrook Foundation grant by February 1, 2014.

Committee Reports:

Long Range Planning Committee – Phase 2 of the walkways will be discussed at the next meeting. Meetings will be held starting at 4:30 until 5:20 pm on dates of TGD committee meetings.

Education – GB Botanical Garden Program will be rescheduled. Programs are set for the year with 10 scheduled for the public. Bookmarks are done and will be available at education meetings.

TGD – Colors for 2014 have been changed to orchid, blue and silver. Plant labeling in TGD should be completed by June 15th. A form will be available on the web site for labeling. If anyone has questions regarding plant naming, please see Tim. Wendy is working on the portable PA system and Tim is working on the wagon cover and getting estimates.

Training – This year's students have new name tags. The roster will be updated and sent out in PDF.

Announcements:

The next meeting will be at **Crossroads** on March 19, 2014.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.



The Garden Door

Garden Door Notes

By Vicki Dirst

The Garden Door Committee Meeting, January 13, 2014

Present: Tim Kazmierczak (chair), Vicki Dirst, Allen Miller, Chriss Daubner, Jo Ann Tarczewski, Jim McFarlin, Kerry and Kathie Vavra, Jane and Tom Luebker, Kay Corcoran, Wendy Woldt, Jim Baxter, Barbara and Doug Henderson, DD Knutson, Phil Block, Barb and Dick Allmann, Jim Friedrichs, Martha Burris, Barb Ottum, Kathy Green, Kaylynn Peterson, Christine Gritzmacher, Deb Javurek, Sue May, and Shirley Ziman

Call to order: Tim called the meeting to order at 5:24 pm.

Raibrook Grant: Tim announced that the grant for the pavers came through.

PARS Status: Tim said the risk of the Peninsular Agricultural Research Station shutting down is relatively low.

PARS Contract: Kathie told us who will be on the committee. Chriss D. will be in charge.

Color Theme: JoAnn suggested replacing yellow with orchid (a purple shade), since that is the fashion color of the year. (The new color theme is orchid, blue and silver.)

Job List for Taste: Doug said he and Barbara have been compiling a list of jobs and personnel for the Taste of the Garden Door. He invited people to volunteer and to call or email them with suggestions.

Rack Cards: Phil has re-designed TGD rack cards. He circulated two versions. People discussed the pros and cons of the different designs and the contents. We are running low on the current cards and need to order new cards this spring.

Plant Labeling: Tim called for one go-to person for labeling, with one uniform format. Jim B. said we have a uniform system except for the grasses. For those he recommends four foot cedar or rebar stakes. Area supervisors need to compile lists of plants to be labeled and check the existing alphabetized labels in the shed. If new labels need to be made, we should have the information to Sandie Ott by the end of May. Tim asked us to have labels in place by June 15.

Portable PA System: Wendy had no update. She will bring information to our next meeting.

The Garden Door Committee Meeting *(continued)*

Tent Proposal: Doug said Gary Kemp researched tents. They propose purchasing heavy duty professional grade 10 x 20 foot pop-up tents for \$500 apiece. This will obviate the need to spend \$500 to rent tents for the Taste of The Garden Door. While we do not currently rent tents for other functions, if we had such tents they could also be used for the plant sale, open house, other functions in TGD, and Research Station events. Tents of this sort do not require stakes that pose a safety issue. Doug moved that the Garden Door committee recommend to the Board that we buy four tents at a total cost of \$2,000. The motion carried.

PARS Wagon Covering: Tim is working on a design.

Budget for TGD: Martha had the budget with her to answer any questions.

Additional Signage: Kathie recommended putting a sign in the garden recognizing Yard Works Landscaping Inc. for their work on the paths. Kerry said we should also make it clear who is responsible for creating and maintaining the garden. Some people expressed concerns about too much signage. Allen suggested we again consider an informational kiosk in the parking lot. No decisions were made.

Long Range Fiscal Policy: Martha urged those working on long range planning, goals, and bylaws to work together with those involved in budgeting.

Pavers: Tim went over the results of the meeting with Yard Works Landscaping Inc. and discussed the details of the proposed contract for the paver project. There was much discussion of construction specifications. The plan is to begin work under the arbor and complete the work in sections so that people are always able to use the garden. The committee agreed that we would like the work to begin as soon as possible in the spring. The project should take about three weeks. Area supervisors will need to be ready to move some garden bed items prior to installation. Yard Works Landscaping Inc. will match the height of the pavers to the adjacent beds and areas of turf. Tim and Kathie will finalize the contract.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm. The next meeting will be March 10.

Financial Support for Paver Project Granted

The grant application submitted to the Raibrook Foundation in November 2013 was granted in December to assist with expenses for Phase I of The Garden Door paver project. Congratulations and thanks to Jim McFarlin, Kaylynn Peterson, Chriss Daubner, and Barb and Doug Henderson for all their efforts in securing this support for this project, which is planned for completion in summer 2014.

Education Committee Report

The Door County Master Gardeners Education Programs for February and March 2014

The Education Committee has terrific programs coming up. If you need education hours, good company, great treats, and a sure cure for cabin fever during our cold spell, we hope to see you on Tuesdays at 7pm. All these programs are at the Crossroads at Big Creek and we hope you'll attend, spread the word, and maybe bring a friend. All are welcome to these free programs.

February 11 – *Mushroom Gardening and Forest Farming*

Shiitake, Oyster, Wine Cap, Nameko, and Lion's Mane are just a sampling of the kinds of mushrooms backyard gardeners can grow in Northeastern Wisconsin. Laura Kahles, staff environmentalist at Field and Forest Products in Peshtigo, WI will introduce basic mushroom cultivation techniques as well as discuss substrate, strain and tool selection to get you started. Field and Forest Products produces certified organic mushroom spawn for mushroom cultivation enthusiasts and commercial growers, and has been in business for 31 years. Laura specializes in Oyster mushroom cultivation on substrates and has also gained valuable knowledge on growing other mushroom species.

February 18 - *Ferns of Door County*

Gary Fewless, botanist from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay, will present a program about ferns. Gary, who teaches plant taxonomy, wetland ecology, and field botany, will emphasize what gardeners should know about ferns, especially in Door County. An accomplished photographer and curator of the herbarium, Gary will bring wonderful images of the green world that we look forward to seeing when the snow melts.

February 25 - *Professional Landscape Design*

Are you interested in improving the beauty, livability and value of your home and property? Professional landscaping can do all of that. This program will provide you with information about the iterative landscaper-customer design process. It will include discussion about creative plantings of flowers, shrubs and trees that grow well in northeast Wisconsin, and the use of paths, water features, rock walls and other hardscape designs to enhance your outdoor living spaces. The program will include "before and after" illustrations of landscaping, from high-end large projects through medium size and smaller projects. Our guest speaker will be Greg Meissner, co-owner of Meissner Landscape, Inc., a firm that has been providing professional, high quality landscape service in Door County and northeast Wisconsin, since 1982.

March 4 - *Dahlias and Garden Tools*

This program is a two-part presentation. First, our own Vicki Dirst should get you excited about dahlias. You may not know that Vicki has considerable expertise with the flowers, especially heirloom dahlias, and can tell us a great deal about their history and development. After hearing her, you will know something about "Catherine Becker" and "Wisconsin Red."

Then, MG Jim Baxter will discuss his favorite garden tools in a presentation based on his popular mini-seminar given at last year's Open House at The Garden Door. We're pleased to have him prepare us for the new season with information on useful garden tools. Having the right tool makes a job easier, so pragmatic information about tools is essential for the home gardener.

March 18 - *Your Lawn: Organic, Conventional or In-between*

Sharon Morrisey, a Consumer Horticulture Agent from UW Extension of Milwaukee County, will present a program about lawns of many types. Lawn care has been a hot topic in Door County, and we'll offer more information that should help you plan to care for the type of lawn you choose to have. Sharon is well-known in the Milwaukee area, sharing gardening and home horticultural information through various media outlets, including the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel "Monthly Gardening Calendar," "Gus' Green Thumb Garden" TV show with Gus Gnorski on FOX6, and the "Yard & Garden Show" on WISN (11:30 am) that she co-hosts. She is a frequent guest on "Garden Talk" with Larry Meiller on WPR, and serves as Master Gardener Volunteer Program Advisor and Coordinator for the Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners. Her areas of specialization include woody landscape plants, landscape design, invasive plant species and vegetable gardening.



“What’s New for 2014” presented by Kori Zawojki on Jan. 21, 2014

The Door County Master Gardeners’ 2014 Education programs started on January 21st with Kori Zawojki’s presentation on new horticultural varieties. This was Kori’s third “What’s New” presentation to MG’s and the public at Crossroads at Big Creek in Sturgeon Bay. This year’s event was as popular and informative as those of 2012 and 2013. Kori is a co-owner of Sunnypoint Gardens Nursery & Gift Shop in Egg Harbor. Her enthusiasm and insight into trends and plants available to home gardeners were a refreshing mental leap into the gardening season while snow surrounded us outside.

Kori began by showing us the Pantone color for 2014: “orchid” which is a bright radiant lavender shade that mixes well with coordinating colors that include warm yellows but are dominated by cooler blue shades. She characterized the 2014 garden trends as “gardening for the greater good” including use of rain gardens, planting for pollinators, using native plants, and creating soothing meditation and prayer gardens. Popular edible gardens include herbs, heirloom vegetables and fruits, “drinking” plants (ingredients for smoothies) and “brewing” plants (ingredients for teas or hops for brewing beer). A variety of small succulents and truly miniature evergreens will be available for fairy gardens and terrariums. Garden décor continues to include vintage items or vintage-looking items made of distressed materials.

Kori introduced us to some of the varieties of David Austin English roses that will be available in 2014. These hybrid roses (Tea X Shrub hybrids) combine the forms and fragrances old roses with the repeat-flowering of modern roses. They are also hardy, making them suitable for our Zone 5 gardens. The audience responded to the pictures with lots of “oo’s and ah’s” even though we had to imagine the scents.

Kori introduced annuals, starting with the typical top picks (Geraniums, Petunias, Impatiens, Begonias, and Marigolds), but highlighted many new varieties of Calibrachoa, Osteospermum, ornamental annual grasses, Coleus, Verbena, Penstemon, and others. She included examples of how to use plants together in containers to achieve vibrant color combinations and height. She also discussed an increasing problem of Downy Mildew disease affecting Impatiens across the US, usually in humid climates. While Downy Mildew infecting Impatiens has not been particularly bad locally, she advised us on how to prevent it from becoming a problem by purchasing plants that are only grown from seeds in sterile potting mix, applying fungicide preventively, planting Impatiens only in containers to avoid contaminating the soil with Downy Mildew spores if plants become infected, or using alternative plants that are not susceptible to Downy Mildew, such as New Guinea Impatiens or Coleus.

Kori also presented a wide selection of perennials for 2014. These included plants grown primarily for foliage, such as Heucheras and ornamental grasses (e.g., “Banana Boat” Carex), some of which change color during the growing season as the plant ages. She included many new varieties of flowering perennials. Some new varieties have additional benefits compared to traditional varieties, such as double flowers, intense colors (e.g., “Red Satin” Coreopsis), flower colors that change with age (e.g., “Sombrero Hot Coral” Echinacea), and reblooming varieties or multiple flower spikes per stem (e.g., “Explosion” series Veronica). A wider range of plant sizes were represented in dwarf or giant varieties. For example, Delphinium varieties range from 1.5 feet to 6 feet tall, making them suitable for more garden locations. Kori included examples of plants that people may want to consider using for the 2014 “orchid” color theme, including a pink Veronica, a purple poppy (“Plum Pudding” Papaver), and a “Blue Pearl” Sedum. We left inspired for 2014 gardening!

Thanks to Barb and Doug Henderson who served as MG coordinators for this event. Thanks also to the MG’s who made, contributed or served the treats served during the intermission.



2013 Christmas Party

Thank-you to everyone who attended and/or helped with the Christmas Party held on the second Friday night of December 2013 at Sevastopol Town Hall. Carl Scholz, Gary Kemp, and Holly Green donated prizes (including colored eggs from Holly's hens) for the bean bag toss. Carl brought greenery for decorations and Deborah Javurek secured the poinsettias from Larry Maas. Christine Gritzmacher was the coordinator for the event and she had *lots* of help from the DCMGA Social Committee, headed by Coggin Heeringa. New members Deb Javurek, Linda and Mike Zolnosky, Linda Lambert, and Holly Green decked the halls and helped to beautifully set the tables. Coggin took care of ordering and bringing the chicken and ham served at the party. Along with all the wonderful appetizers, side dishes, and desserts provided by the MG's, it was a feast! Thanks to all those good cooks and bakers who added to the dinner. Through Jan Gigstead's pictures, we can enjoy the memories of the party (more are posted at dcmga.org website). When the dinner, games and visiting were winding down, many people helped with clean-up so that we could all get home before the snowfall became hazardous. Except for Jeanne Vogel's yellow hot pad, which got so caught up in the festivities that it went missing, the party was a great way to celebrate the season!



Conferences

Garden Expectations – 2014 WIMGA Conference March 28-29 in Appleton, WI

The Outagamie County Master Gardeners will host the Garden Expectations 2014 WIMGA Conference on Friday and Saturday, March 28-29 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Appleton, WI. The featured keynote speaker will be Dan Heims (Terra Nova Nurseries) presenting “Right Plant, Right Place—Plants for Problem Areas” (Friday night) and “Perennials for Containers” (Saturday morning). The WIMGA Annual Business Meeting for Master Gardeners will be held on Friday evening. On Saturday, participants can attend three breakout sessions, which include presentations on permaculture (self-sufficient gardening), use of native plants, herb gardens, designing with Hostas, beekeeping, trash to treasure garden art, innovations for a healthy food system, and mushroom hunting. The conference will also include an “Ask the Expert” panel on Saturday after the breakout sessions. Vendors will be open on Friday evening and all day Saturday. The conference will close with prize drawings and announcement of the raffle winner of a handmade “Wild Flowers” quilt.

Registration from Feb. 1 to 28 costs \$70, and after Feb. 28 is \$75. The non-refundable fee includes all conference materials, sessions, buffet lunch, Friday evening reception, and refreshments. Detailed information on the conference, on-line registration, and the conference brochure are available on the Outagamie County MGA site: <http://ocmga.net/2733.aspx> and http://ocmga.net/media/37571/2014_mg_conference_brochure.pdf

2014 Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference March 8 in Sinsinawa, WI

University of Illinois Extension and Iowa State University Extension are hosting the 2014 Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference on Saturday, March 8, at the Sinsinawa Mound Center, located at 585 County Road Z in Sinsinawa, Wis. This is the 20th year for the forestry conference, which annually draws over 500 woodland landowners and tree enthusiasts from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. According to Jay Hayek, Extension forester at U of I, “This is one of the largest woodland owner conferences in the nation. Our conference regularly fills to capacity, so those interested in participating are encouraged to register early in order to secure a spot at the conference.”

To register, visit the conference web site at <http://extension.illinois.edu/go/forestconference>.

The forestry conference will feature over 21 presentations covering a wide range of forestry, wildlife, and natural resources topics, including invasive species management; prescribed fire; timber sales and marketing; tree felling and pruning; crop-tree management; forest management plans; tree identification; wood heating appliances; forest interior birds; forest herps; forest and insect pests; growing hazelnuts; Internet-based forestry resources; and aquaponics.

The conference will include a two-hour apple tree grafting workshop, for which enrollment is limited to the first 25 individuals who enroll via the online registration system. Participants in this workshop will be able to take home five apple trees grafted onto certified rootstock. Participants will also have the opportunity to interact with federal, state, and university forestry and natural resource specialists, and to visit with a wide variety of vendors and exhibitors.

Adult registration is \$45 on or before Feb. 14, and \$55 after that date. The registration deadline is midnight on Feb. 28 and advance registration is required and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Participation is limited to the first 550 paid registrations. The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, turkey or meatless lasagna lunch, refreshments throughout the day, handouts, and a Tri-State Forest Stewardship Conference coffee mug.

More WIMG Continuing Education Opportunities

In addition to the spring Level 2 training offered by the MG Program Office, there are a number of events coming up around the state to consider for fulfilling the requirement of a minimum 10 hours of continuing education for recertification (listed below). For details on these events, and many others, see the wimastgardener.org website's calendar of events.

- **Feb 1, Oshkosh** *Winter Escape - Summer Dreams*, offered by the Winnebago Co. MGA
- **Feb 7-9, Madison** *WPT's Garden Expo*
- **Feb 13, Oconomowoc** The Wisconsin Nursery Association's Winter Workshop
- **March 1, Fond du Lac** *Day in the Garden*, presented by the Fond du Lac Co. MG
- **March 15, Hudson** *Garden U* by the St. Croix Valley MGA
- **March 22, Janesville** Gardening For Good, Rotary Botanical Garden's Spring Symposium
- **March 29–30, Mineral Point** *Garden Getaway: Garden Art & the Art of Gardening* by the Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts
- **April 5, Green Bay** Spring Thaw Symposium at Green Bay Botanical Gardens (see page 12 of this Newsletter for more information)

Introduction to Winter Sowing

On January 29th, Jennifer Lee of Ellison Bay gave a short presentation to the January 29th DCMGA training class on sowing seeds outside in winter. It was easy to be skeptical (start seed planters in snow?!), but Jen convinced us that she had 90% success with her seeds during the two years she has used this method. Also, Jen demonstrated how simple it was to transform a gallon plastic milk jug into a mini-greenhouse with a sharp knife. As Jen said, when she first saw how many seedlings she got using this method *in Zone 5*, she thought she should “hear a chorus of angels singing.”

There is a lot of information about winter sowing on the internet. A search for “winter sowing 101” lead to these sites (and others):

Trudi Davidoff's site -- <http://www.wintersown.org/> with tab to http://www.wintersown.org/wseo1/How_to_Winter_Sow.html

Sandy Swegel's site -- http://www.bbbseed.com/blog/The_Dirt/post/Winter_Sowing/

Amy Andrychowicz's site -- <http://www.getbusygardening.com/2010/02/winter-sowing-seeds.html>

Trudi Davidoff introduced the concept and term of “winter sowing” in an internet posting in 2000. Introduce yourself to winter sowing this year and see what happens in spring!

Volunteer Opportunities

TGD Rock Garden: MG's will be needed in April or May (weather dependent) to be crew members to help Barb Ottum move portions of her rock garden area to accommodate the widened path near the Gazebo. Boulders and plants that have to be relocated. Call Tim K. or Barb Ottum to volunteer or for more information.

TGD Plant Identification: Latin experts and other members with plant ID books in hand are needed to help area chairmen identify and label plants in their gardens at The Garden Door. Watch the e-mails for details! This activity will involve a potluck picnic in TGD after the work is done.

TGD Map: Cartographers or people with an interest in map drawing are needed to help identify garden plants and features. Such maps will be especially helpful when an area at TGD is transferred to a new area supervisor. There's a lot of confusion in some of the older beds. Trees also need to be mapped and identified. We need the individual gardens mapped AND someone to put it all together. This is a short term job. Contact Tim K. or Kathie V. if you can help!

Outreach Teaching Projects: Our first request, based on our web site form, was a request from **Northern Door YMCA** for a one-hour slide show on "What can you grow in Door County?" to be presented on Wednesday, May 14. The hour includes time for questions at the end. Tim is putting a slide show together that you may use. This could be presented by one or two MG members. The focus is Education and The Garden Door. Contact Kathie V. if you could "teach" this class.

Two More YMCA Classes: We also have been requested to find MG's to teach two short classes at the **Sturgeon Bay YMCA** next spring. Contact Mike Van Ess for details.

Outreach project leader is needed to assist with **Ministry Health's garden** at the Community Garden near Ministry Hospital in Sturgeon Bay. *This project will not be accepted without a MG volunteer as project leader.* For more information on this potential project, contact Chris Gritzmacher or Kathie Vavra.

Outreach Coordinator needed. The coordinator will collect the Outreach forms from members who want to be the lead on an educational program or project. The Coordinator will submit the forms to the Board for approval and let the lead members know whether the Board has approved the program/project to count as volunteer hours for MG recertification. The Coordinator will transfer the forms for approved programs/projects to Brian Holz so that the volunteer hours for the program/project can be counted in September. Contact Kathie V. if you are interested in the Outreach Coordinator job.

 * **2014 PLANT SALE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** *
 *
 * Work has started on the plant sale—our biggest money maker of the year. I'd like all of you MG Volunteers to think about how
 * you are going to contribute to making this year's plant sale another successful endeavor. At this time, I would like you to con-
 * sider taking a bigger role in the plant sale by taking responsibility for a specific area. A couple areas that need a leader are
 * annual signs and annual labeling. You will be hearing a lot more about the sale in the coming months. Look for emails about
 * our pre-sale too.
 * *Chriss Daubner*
 *



Meet and Greet the Class of 2014

Watch your emails for information on a gathering to meet the new Door County MG trainees. The date in March, place and time are to be determined.

Green Bay Botanical Garden's Spring Thaw Symposium, April 5, 2014 Chic Gardening – Green and Glamorous

The Spring Thaw symposium at the Green Bay Botanical Garden (GBBG) on Saturday, April 5th will feature presentations by three talented horticultural speakers. Kelly D. Norris, horticultural author and manager at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, will present “Dig This – Stylish Gardening for Savvy Gardeners” at 9:15 am. Kelly will focus on landscaping with chic, sustainable plants that will thrive for more than just a few seasons. Rich Eyre, a long-time conifer collector and owner of Foxwillow Pines Nursery, will talk about “Captivating Conifers for the Landscape” at 10:45 am. Rich will emphasize use of dwarf garden conifers in small or narrow places, foundation plantings, and shady locations. Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, will speak talk about “Sustainable Gardens: Designs and Plants for Greener Gardens” at 1:00 pm. Jeff will describe designing for sustainability by first analyzing site conditions and then choosing plants well-adapted to those conditions to produce a garden that requires less work, less water and less chemical input. Rich Eyre will return to speak at 2:30 pm on “Inspirational Gardens and Plants” which will be a virtual tour of some of the landscapes and plants that have inspired him. Rich will describe how you can use these landscaping techniques to make your own masterpiece. The Symposium schedule lasts from 8:30 am to about 4:00 pm, including breaks and a buffet lunch. The registration fee is \$45 for GBBG members, \$60 for non-members and \$20 for students, which includes all presentations, handouts, lunch and refreshments. For more information, check for an email that attached the symposium brochure or go to the Green Bay Botanical Gardens’ web site: www.gbbg.org

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!

Check dcmga.org Website for Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks to all DCMG's who participate in events throughout the year, from the spring planting, tending and sale, the Open House and Taste of the Garden Door events, all of our educational events that inspire and educate gardeners, and for contributing to our social culture. Everyone who volunteers helps make our organization and community better. Please check notices for current volunteer opportunities at the dcmga.org website.



**Shelley Ryan
(1956-2014)**

On the morning of January 16th, our friend and fellow Master Gardener Shelley Ryan passed away in hospice care in Fitchburg, WI. She was an extraordinary woman with a strong, creative, joyous and feisty spirit that she demonstrated as host of the *Wisconsin Gardener* TV program on WPT (channel 38). For one episode, Shelley interviewed several members of the DCMGA as she toured their gardens. Shelley also shared her exuberance and talents with Door County MGs and others in 2011 when she presented a class in fabric dying that used natural pigments extracted from plants grown in The Garden Door and the Garden Next Door to make lovely scarves — one of which she modeled (below).

Shelley was talented in many ways and gave so much to the horticultural community through her enthusiasm and efforts. She seemed to have a smile and laughter to share in everything she did. Shelley will be fondly remembered by friends and gardeners.



The Door County Master Gardeners' Newsletter
is published six times per year.

Editor: Christine Gritzmacher
Send comments to: mqdceditor@gmail.com

*Produced in cooperation with the
University of Wisconsin Extension Office.*

THE
WISCONSIN GARDENER
Subscribe to *The Wisconsin Gardener*
email newsletter by completing the
form at:

<http://www.wpt.org/enews/>

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Ed. Comm. Mtg. 5:30 pm, PARS	5 MG Training class 5:30 pm, PARS	6	7	8
9	10	11 Ed. Program 7 pm, CR	12 MG Training class 5:30 pm, PARS	13	14	15
16	17	18 Ed. Program 7 pm, CR	19 MG Training class 5:30 pm, PARS	20	21	22
23	24	25 Ed. Program 7 pm, CR	26 MG Training class 5:30 pm, PARS	27	28	

Event Locations: **PARS** = Peninsular Agricultural Research Station Classroom, and **CR** = Crossroads at Big Creek

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Ed. Program 7 pm, CR	5 MG Training class 5:30 pm, PARS	6	7	8 Tri-State Forestry Conference Sinsinawa, WI
9	10 TGD Comm. Mtg, 5:30 pm PARS	11	12 MG Training class 5:30 pm, PARS	13	14	15
16	17	18 Ed. Program 7 pm, CR	19 5:30 pm MG Training class, Board Mtg, CR	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 MG Training class 5:30 pm, PARS	27	28	29 2014 WIMGA Conference Appleton, WI
30	31					